



The President's Daily Brief

28 September 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

In order to meet the schedule of President Nixon during his trip, this issue of The President's Daily Brief contains information as of 2000 EDT 27 September 1970. Subsequent issues through 5 October will be timed similarly.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in the Middle East is discussed on
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Cambodian forces are consolidating their positions
at Tang Kouk, but may meet stiff resistance if they
continue northward. (*Page 2*).

In Bolivia, President Ovando has parried again an
attempt by military leaders to oust him. (*Page 3*).

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MIDDLE EAST

The Arab leaders in Cairo have agreed on terms to end the war in Jordan. The agreement calls for cessation of all military operations, immediate withdrawal of Jordanian forces from Amman to the frontline with Israel, withdrawal of fedayeen forces from Amman to "suitable" areas, normalization of conditions in Irbid, release of detainees on both sides, and formation of a committee to implement the agreement. The committee is to be headed by Tunisian Premier Bahi Ladgham, and is to include representatives of King Husayn and Yasir Arafat.

The agreement contains many of the eight demands made earlier by Arafat and as such would represent a success for the fedayeen. Husayn undoubtedly came under heavy pressure from the Arab leaders to make what appear to be sweeping concessions. It is unlikely, however, that this agreement will stand up when Husayn returns to Amman. Husayn may find it convenient simply to ignore the accord; in any case, he will be under strong pressure from the army to do so.

Meanwhile, intermittent fighting continues in Amman. The fedayeen are reinfiltrating each night into previously cleared areas, and the army may be running short of ammunition. Zaid Rifai, a close confidant of the King, has told the US Embassy that the government is having trouble keeping the army from attacking fedayeen strong-points that remain scattered around the suburbs and in the downtown area.

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The last six hostages remain in the custody of Egyptian officials in Jordan, despite attempts by the ICRC and US Embassy to have them freed. Press reports claim that a spokesman for the Egyptian Embassy has said that the six would be released within 48 hours, but we have no confirmation of this. The 32 hostages released earlier arrived in Cyprus yesterday morning, local time, and are scheduled to depart this morning for Rome and onward routing to New York.

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CAMBODIA

Cambodian forces are reorganizing and consolidating their positions at Tang Kouk, following their reoccupation of the village Saturday. [redacted]

[redacted], the Communists are positioning six antiaircraft guns near Route 6, less than six miles north of Tang Kouk. If true, this would be another indication that government units will meet stiff resistance if they continue to push north toward Kompong Thom. A defector has reported, however, that a large number of enemy troops, possibly including elements of the Viet Cong 275A Regiment, moved northeast from this area on 24 September.

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Another Cambodian river convoy to Kompong Thom was scheduled to leave Kompong Chhnang yesterday, bringing four 105-mm. howitzers to bolster the city's defenses. The Communists are telling villagers near Kompong Thom that they will attack the city soon, once they receive reinforcements and install antiaircraft defenses.

[redacted]
[redacted] increasing enemy attacks along Route 4--the road between Kompong Som and Phnom Penh--have been made by Vietnamese-led Cambodian Communists. [redacted]

[redacted] at least six Cambodian Communist battalions could be mustered for a campaign against strategic points on the highway. The government has now ordered that blockhouses be built at these points. North of Route 4, a well-armed Communist force from the Kirirom area is threatening isolated government positions along the coast.

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NOTE

Bolivia: President Ovando apparently has once again parried, at least for the moment, an attempt by military leaders to oust him. Ovando met with his military chiefs for more than six hours on the night of 25-26 September after a group of retired generals issued a communiqué demanding his removal. As part of the compromise reached, Ovando is said to have agreed to take a tougher stance toward student disruptions such as those of the past week.

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